characterized in that it comprises at least one step where the access function relays the data packets received on ~~one of the LECs~~ a router LEC or a transit LEC as follows:

(a) if the addressee of the packet is an internal routing function laid out at a node X, the packet is directly handed over to said function,

(b) if the addressee of a packet is a VLAN serviced by the [[Fax]] access function, the data packet is relayed to the router ~~having the same identifier~~ LEC of the node X corresponding to the VLAN serviced, and

(c) if the addressee of the packet is a VLAN that is not serviced, the packet is relayed ~~to the~~ on a transit ELAN via the transit LEC of a node X to the transit LEC of a node Y.

The step (b) may be carried out as follows:

- if the addressee VLAN ~~with the identifier j~~ belongs to the list [[Lx]], the relaying function of [[Fax]] the access function is activated and the data packet is relayed to the [[LEC]] router [[Rjx]] LEC having an identifier that is the identifier of the addressee VLAN, and

the step (c) may be carried out as follows:

- if the addressee VLAN does not belong to the list [[Lx]], the data packet is relayed to the transit LEC of a node Y as mentioned in the routing table.

The present invention comprises especially the following advantages:

- it provides users of non-interconnected components with a routing service equivalent to the one offered by the complete network,

- in the case of the merger of several components, it enables the merger without redundancy of the functions offered.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 5, line 5, of the More Detailed Description section of the Specification with the following replacement paragraph to correct the omission of the Ethernet network referenced as "Uk" as shown in Figure 1:

Figure 1 shows a view of an ATM network 1 (level 2) comprising several switches 2 (corresponding for example to the nodes X, Y and Z of the network) and several arteries 3, each

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